

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/038,403

Applicant(s)

COLES, RAYMOND W.

Examiner

Jared J. Fureman

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephone interview on 7/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 071904.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

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Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment, filed on 6/24/2004, which has been entered in the file. Claims 1 and 3-22 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William D. McSpadden (44,234) on 7/19/2004. The examiner's amendment was necessary in order to remove any claim objections and/or possible rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph, in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a security card, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a substrate having a reflective region covering a portion of the substrate that is substantially less than ~~the~~ an entire surface of the substrate, wherein the reflective region comprises a metal film suitable for increasing the visibility of an overlying security image;
 - b) thermally depositing identification details onto the substrate; and

c) depositing a protective layer of plastics material onto the substrate so as to protect the identification details, and selectively depositing the protective layer over the reflective region so as to form the security image thereon.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal film is printed onto the substrate.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, in which the metal film is provided on a carrier film and is brought into contact with the substrate at a printing station and transferred to the substrate.

5. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protective layer of plastics material is provided on a carrier film and in which a plurality of heater elements are provided on a thermal print head, and in which the heater elements are energized when the carrier film is in contact with the substrate to transfer the plastics material to the substrate.

6. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the heating elements are energized to deposit a continuous layer of the plastics material over the whole of an

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area to be covered that is not covered by the reflective region such that the plastics material serves as a protective coating.

7. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 6, in which selected regions of the plastics material are heated to a greater degree than other areas so as to vary a surface appearance of the protective layer.

8. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, in which the full thickness of the plastics material is deposited and selected portions thereof are overheated so as to give these portions a different appearance.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a satin appearance.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, in which the overheated portions have a matt appearance.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the image is printed over the substrate in a repeating pattern.

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12. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the plastics material deposited over the reflective region is heated to a greater degree than is necessary to deposit the plastics material so as to vary the surface appearance thereof.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12, in which the regions of plastics material which are heated to a greater degree than necessary to deposit the plastics material have one of a satin and matt appearance.

14. (Previously Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the protective layer of plastics material is deposited on the substrate during a printing process, and in which the security image is held in a memory device readable by one of the printer and a data processor controlling the printer.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the memory device is a removable device.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, in which the image is held in an encrypted form.

17. (Original) A surface printed in accordance with the method of claim 1.

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18. (Currently Amended) A printed item, said item comprising a substrate having a first surface, wherein a reflective element is provided on a portion of the first surface that is substantially less than the entire first surface of the substrate, wherein the reflective element comprises a metal film suitable for increasing the visibility of an overlying security image, and where identification details are printed onto the first surface and wherein a plastics layer is deposited over the substrate and is selectively deposited over the reflective element.

19. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the plastics layer is deposited as a substantially uniform layer, over those portions of the substrate not carrying the reflective element.

20. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 19, in which portions of the plastics layer are overheated in order to change the appearance of those portions.

21. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the item is an identity card.

22. (Original) A printed item as claimed in claim 18, in which the item is one of a security card, bank card, license and credit card.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 3-22 have been allowed over the prior art of record. Applicant's arguments, regarding the combination of Baxendale and Lyszczarz (see pages 8 and 9, of the amendment filed on 6/24/2004), have been found persuasive. The previous grounds of rejection have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Curiel (US 6,715,797), Curiel (US 6,655,598 B1), Curiel (US 6,164,548), Clayman et al (US 6,644,551 B2), Theodossiou et al (US 2004/0011874 A1), and Corcoran (US 6,471,128) all teach cards having a reflective metal film layer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared J. Fureman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2391. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 4:30 PM M-T, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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July 19, 2004